

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /094 W

----- 080406

R 040926Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9577

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1392

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: LEBOWA CHIEF MINISTER DISTURBED BY TRANSKEI
REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE

REF: DURBAN 106

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH LEBOWA CHIEF MINISTER CEDRIC PHATUDI AT SESHEGO APRIL 3. DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION HE TOLD THEM HOMELAND LEADERS HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY TRANSKEI CHIEF MINISTER MATANZIMA THAT HE WAS GOING TO ASK FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI. EVEN AT MARCH 6 JOINT MEETING BETWEEN HOMELAND LEADERS AND PM VORSTER, MATANZIMA GAVE HIS COLLEAGUES NO HINT OF WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO. NOR HAVE THEY HEARD FROM HIM SINCE TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT RESOLVED IT WOULD SEEK INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI WITHIN FIVE YEARS (DURBAN 106).

2. PHATUDI SAID HE PERSONALLY "VERY DISTURBED" BY MATANZIMA'S ACTION, WHICH IW CONTRARY TO PREVIOUSLY UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF HOMELAND LEADERS NOT TO ASK FOR INDEPENDENCE UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS FOR, INTER ALIA, MORE LAND
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WERE ACCEDED TO BY SAG. PHATUDI DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SEE

MATANZIMA'S MOVE AS AFFECTING UNANIMITY OF OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS. AS FOR LEBOWA, PHATUDI SAID IT WOULD BE "SHEER MADNESS" FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE, BECAUSE OF ITS FRAGMENTATION AND POVERTY. HE SAID HOMELAND LEADERS WILL QUESTION MATANZIMA ABOUT WHAT HE HAS DONE WHEN THEY NEXT GET TOGETHER PRIOR TO MEETING WITH VORSTER AGAIN.

3. PHATUDI WONDERED WHETHER SAG REALLY WANTED TO SEE MORE HOMELANDS BESIDES THE TRANSKEI BECOME INDEPENDENT AND PERHAPS ENTER INTO SOME SORT OF FEDERATION. (HE MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE A FEDERATION OF LEBOWA, VENDA, AND GAZANKULU.) HE ASSERTED THAT WHITES INTEND TO REMAIN DOMINANT IN SA, AND THEY WANT NO CHANGES THAT WOULD THREATEN THEIR DOMINANCE.

4. COMMENT: PHATUDI HAS IMPRESSED THOSE WHO HAVE MET HIM AS BEING STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NOT A DISSEMBLER. HIS REMARKS SHOULD ERASE ANY DOUBTS THAT MATANZIMA IS ACTING ON HIS OWN AND AGAINST THE PURPOSES OF AT LEAST MOST OF HIS HOMELAND LEADER COLLEAGUES. EMBASSY AGREES WITH DURBAN THAT MATANZIMA INDEED HAS "INDEPENDENCE FEVER," AND WITH OTHER WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS OF TRANSKEI POLITICS THAT MATANZIMA IS DETERMINED TO FULFILL AND AMBITION TO BE LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI.
HURD

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